

Dwelling in the Word
Yellowstone Presbytery
Friday, May 6, 2022

“Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow”

Jeremiah 29:1-9

This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. It said: This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

1. What words or phrases rise to the top in this passage?
2. Dwell upon the words “build,” “settle down,” and “plant” in verse 5. What feelings do these words evoke?
3. Why is the Lord concerned about the exiles being deceived?

Questions for Consideration in Small Groups: Please respect confidentiality.

1. How would you feel if you were suddenly displaced from your family, community, and routine of life due to war, natural disaster, or family emergency?
2. What specific things does Jeremiah encourage the exiles to do?
3. What one piece of advice that Jeremiah gives is particularly important to you?
4. Have you or someone you know ever been displaced by a job, relationship, or natural disaster? What did you/they experience physically, emotionally, spiritually?
5. How can we, the church, help those who are experiencing displacement?
6. How can we seek the peace and prosperity of the communities in which we live?

Questions for the Large Group Discussion

1. What insight did you gain in your small groups?
2. How can we, as the church, support others who have been displaced?